



Indiana
Department of Labor

"Working to make Indiana businesses clean and safe, and wages fair and competitive."

MITCHELL E. DANIELS, Jr., GOVERNOR
Miguel R. Rivera, Sr., Commissioner

402 W. Washington St., Room W195
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2751

Phone (317) 232-2655
Fax (317) 233-3790

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Quin Cheatham
317.232.2683

Indiana Department of Labor's Bureau of Mines in Conjunction with Mining Industry Conducts Mine Safety Drill

Indianapolis, IN June 27, 2006 – The Indiana Department of Labor Bureau of Mines and its Mine Rescue teams in conjunction with the Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), the Indiana Coal Council and Indiana's Mine Operators conducted an unannounced mine rescue drill on Tuesday June 20, 2006. The mine rescue drill began at 6:05 a.m., local time at the South Hart Street Portal for the Black Beauty Coal Company Air Quality Mine, located at 5337 South Hart Street, just south of Vincennes, Indiana.

"We wanted to be proactive about the prospect of an emergency situation in an Indiana Mine. Our state's Mine Rescue Teams have experienced updated training and now are prepared with the equipment and administrative infrastructure to handle a real life mine emergency," comments Commissioner Miguel R. Rivera, Sr. regarding the outcome of the drill. "A mock situation was set up and explained to mine rescue teams as they arrived. It was the responsibility of federal and state officials, and the mine rescue teams to assess the situation, set up a central command, and resolve emergency. We learned that we are very well equipped and will continue to improve on all aspects of our team."

IDOL worked with the Indiana Mine Operators and the Indiana Coal Council to put together the activities and agenda surrounding the drill. Don McCorkle, Deputy Commissioner – knew the drill would take place; however, the details of when and where the drill would take place were a surprise until the morning he got a call from mine operators at Black Beauty Coal. "The drill was a good test run to find out the roles of everyone involved. The teams are well trained and performed above and beyond what we expected. Of course there is always room for improvement, but overall we couldn't have asked for a better practice experience," said Deputy Commissioner McCorkle.

Nat Noland of the Indiana Coal Council worked closely with the IDOL, mine officials at Black Beauty Coal, local law enforcement, fire, ambulance, and Homeland Security to secure the details of the drill. "Overall the drill was a complete success. Rescue team members arrived quicker than anticipated and we were able to get 4 full teams involved in the drill. We are already in the planning stages for the next drill." Noland further stated: "Indiana coal miners are fortunate to have very high quality and professional mine rescue teams available in case of a real emergency."

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Deputy Commissioner Quin Cheatham at 317.232.2683.

###